

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (New) A method for identifying a lost or stolen device, the method comprising:
 - storing in a secure database data associated with a plurality of lost or stolen devices;
 - receiving identifying information of detected devices using at least one reader; and
 - comparing information received by the at least one reader with the data stored in the secure database.
3. (New) The method of Claim 2, additionally comprising receiving from a central database the data associated with the plurality of lost or stolen devices.
4. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein the information received by the at least one reader is transmitted by each of the detected devices in response to receiving a signal from the reader.
5. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein receiving identifying information of detected devices comprises receiving a signal from a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated with each detected device.
6. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein the RFID tag comprises a passive RFID tag.
7. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein the act of receiving identifying information is performed in a public place.
8. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein the public place comprises an airline terminal.
9. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein the identifying information identifies a laptop computer.
10. (New) The method of Claim 2, additionally comprising sending an alarm signal when the information received by the at least one reader corresponds to the data associated with the plurality of lost or stolen devices.

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11. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein the act of sending the alarm signal comprises producing an audible tone.

12. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein the act of sending the alarm signal comprises activating an indicator on a display screen.

13. (New) An apparatus for identifying a lost or stolen device, the apparatus comprising:

a secure database that is configured to store data associated with a plurality of lost or stolen devices; and

a processor that is configured to receive from at least one reader identifying information regarding detected devices, wherein the processor is further configured to compare the identifying information with the data stored in the secure database.

14. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising an alarm that is configured to send a signal when at least a portion of the identifying information matches a portion of the data stored in the secure database.

15. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the secure database is configured to receive the data associated with the plurality of lost or stolen devices from a central database.

16. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the at least one reader is configured to receive identifying information from a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag.

17. (New) An apparatus for identifying a lost or stolen device, the apparatus comprising:

a transceiver, coupled to a device, the transceiver configured to transmit identifying information;

a first secure database configured to store data associated with lost or stolen devices and configured to prevent unauthorized access to the data stored therein; and

a plurality of checkpoints, each checkpoint comprising:

a reader located at the checkpoint and configured to receive the identifying information transmitted by the transceiver, and

a processor configured to compare the identifying information with data stored in the first secure database, wherein the processor is configured to generate a signal if the identifying information matches at least some of the stored data.

18. (New) The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising an alarm that is configured to receive the signal from the processor.

19. (New) The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the alarm is configured to produce an audible tone.

20. (New) The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the alarm comprises an indicator on a display screen.

21. (New) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the transceiver transmits the identifying information in response to receiving a signal from the reader.

22. (New) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the transceiver comprises a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag.

23. (New) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the RFID tag comprises a passive RFID tag.

24. (New) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein at least one of the plurality of checkpoints is located in a public place.

25. (New) The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the public place comprises an airline terminal.

26. (New) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the device comprises a laptop computer.

27. (New) A method for locating a lost or stolen device, the method comprising:

receiving a report of a lost or stolen device;

storing data associated with the report of the lost or stolen device into a secure database;

receiving with at least one reader unique identifying information of detected devices ; and

comparing the identifying information received by the at least one reader with the data stored in the secure database.

28. (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein the identifying information is transmitted by each detected device in response to receiving a signal from the reader.

29. (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein receiving identifying information of detected devices comprises receiving a signal from a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated with each detected device.

30. (New) The method of Claim 29, wherein the RFID tag comprises a passive RFID tag.

31. (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein the at least one reader is located in a public place.

32. (New) The method of Claim 31, wherein the public place comprises an airline terminal.

33. (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein the identifying information is associated with a laptop computer.

34. (New) The method of Claim 27, additionally comprising sending an alarm signal when the identifying information corresponds to the data associated with the report of the lost or stolen device.

35. (New) The method of Claim 34, wherein the act of sending the alarm signal comprises producing an audible tone.

36. (New) The method of Claim 34, wherein the act of sending the alarm signal comprises activating an indicator on a display screen.

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37. (New) An apparatus for identifying a lost or stolen device, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a report of a lost or stolen device;

means for storing data associated with the report of the lost or stolen device;

means for receiving identifying information of detected devices; and

means for comparing the identifying information with the data associated with the report of the lost or stolen device.

38. (New) The apparatus of Claim 37, further comprising means for sending an alarm signal when the identifying information corresponds to at least a portion of the data associated with the report of a lost or stolen device.

39. (New) The apparatus of Claim 37, wherein the means for storing data comprises a secure database.

40. (New) The apparatus of Claim 37, wherein the means for receiving identifying information comprises a radio frequency identification (RFID) reader.

41. (New) An apparatus for identifying a lost or stolen device, the apparatus comprising:

a processor configured to receive a report of a lost or stolen device and configured to store in a database data associated with the report,

wherein the processor is configured to receive identifying information from a plurality of readers,

wherein each reader is located at a checkpoint and configured to receive the identifying information transmitted by a transceiver when a detected device associated with the transceiver is within a defined distance from the reader, and

wherein the processor is configured to send a signal to an alarm if the identifying information matches at least some of the stored data associated with the report of the lost or stolen device.

42. (New) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein the database comprises a secure database that prevents unauthorized access to the data stored therein.

43. (New) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein the alarm is configured to notify personnel at at least one checkpoint.

44. (New) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein the data associated with the report of the lost or stolen device comprises identifying information for a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag.

45. (New) An apparatus for identifying a lost or stolen device, the apparatus comprising:

- a transmitter configured to transmit identification information associated with a device;

- a receiver configured to receive the identification information; and

- a processor configured to receive the identification information from the receiver, the processor having a first secure database for storing data associated with a plurality of lost or stolen devices, wherein the processor is configured to compare the identification information with the stored data.

46. (New) The apparatus of Claim 45, wherein the processor is further configured to generate an alarm if the information matches at least some of the stored data.

47. (New) The apparatus of Claim 45, wherein the identification information comprises a serial number associated with the device.

48. (New) An apparatus for identifying a lost or stolen device, the apparatus comprising:

- a transmitter, associated with a device, configured to transmit identification information;

- a first receiver configured to receive the transmitted identification information when the transmitter is within a defined distance from the receiver;

- a first processor having a first database configured to store data associated with a plurality of lost or stolen devices; and

- a second processor configured to receive the identification information from the first receiver, the second processor having a second database configured to receive at least a portion of the stored data from the first database and configured to compare the received portion of the stored data with the identification information received from the first receiver.

49. (New) The apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the defined distance is approximately six feet.

50. (New) The apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the first processor is configured to update the data associated with the plurality of lost or stolen devices stored in the first database.

51. (New) The apparatus of Claim 50, wherein the second processor is configured to periodically update the second database with at least a portion of the updated data stored in the first database.

52. (New) The apparatus of Claim 48, wherein the second processor is configured to generate an alarm if the identification information matches at least a portion of the stored data.

53. (New) The apparatus of Claim 48, further comprising:

- a second receiver configured to receive the transmitted identification information when the transmitter is within a defined distance from the second receiver; and

- a third processor configured to receive the identification information from the second receiver, the third processor having a third database configured to receive at least a portion of the stored data from the first database and configured to compare the received portion of the stored data with the identification information received from the second receiver.

54. (New) A method of identifying lost or stolen items, the method comprising:

- receiving with a receiver information transmitted by a radio frequency identification (RFID) device associated with an item;

- storing data associated with lost or stolen items in a first database;

- updating a second database with at least a portion of the data stored in the first database, the second database being in communication with the receiver; and

- comparing the information received with the receiver with the data stored in the second database.

55. (New) The method of Claim 54, additionally comprising generating an alarm if the information received with the receiver matches at least a portion of the stored data.

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56. (New) The method of Claim 54, wherein the RFID device comprises a memory configured to store said information.